

THE BRIDEGROOM SERVICE FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Glory to You, Christ God our hope, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of Blessings and the Giver of Life: Come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us. *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive us our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord have mercy! *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R: Amen.

Lord have mercy! *(12 times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Leader:

Come, let us worship, our King and bow down before Him! *(Metany)*

Come, let us worship Christ God, our King, and bow down before Him! *(Metany)*

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and our God, and bow down before Him! *(Metany)*

PSALM 3

O Lord, why do so many taunt me?

Many are those who rise up against me;

Many are those who say of my soul:

“There is no salvation for him in his God!”

But You, O Lord, are a shield around me,

my glory: You raised my head.

Loudly did I cry out to the Lord

and from his holy mountain he listened to me.

As for me I lay down and slept,

I rose again for the Lord will be my help.

I will not fear ten thousand people
arrayed against me all around:
arise, O Lord and save me, my God!
You have stricken all who fought me without cause,
you have shattered the sinners teeth.
This deliverance is the Lord's.
Upon your people be your blessing!
As for me I lay down and slept.
I rose again for the Lord will be my help.

THE GREAT LITANY OF PEACE

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For peace from on high and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For peace in the whole world, the good estate of the holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For our Father and Bishop Nicholas, the honorable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For our civil authorities, for the government and the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. *R.* Lord have mercy!

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For this city, for every city and country place and the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For those who travel by sea, land or air, for the sick, the suffering, for the captives and their release, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

R. Lord have mercy!

Leader: Remembering our all-holy, spotless, most highly blessed and glorious Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ God.

R. To You, O Lord!

Leader, lifting up his voice: For all glory, honor and worship are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 22:15-23:39)

R. Glory to you, O Lord glory to you!

In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside he went to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and never doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

"Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it."

R. Glory to you, O Lord glory to you!

ALLELUIA OF THE BRIDEGROOM

R Alleluia (3 times)

From night until dawn, my spirit longs for You, O God, for Your commandments are a light upon the earth.

R Alleluia (3 times)

Learn righteousness, you who dwell on earth.

R Alleluia (3 times)

TROPARION OF THE BRIDEGROOM



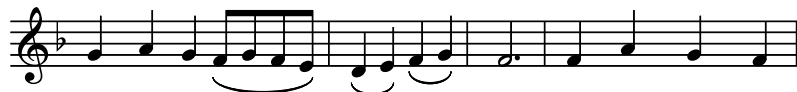
Be-hold the Bride-groom is com-ing in the mid-dle of the



night. Bless-ed is the ser - vant He shall find a - wake!



But the one He shall find ne - glect - ful



will not be wor - thy of Him. Be-ware there-fore,



O my soul, do not fall in - to a deep slum-ber,



lest you be de - li - vered to death, and the door



of the king - dom be closed on you. Watch in-stead



and cry out: Ho-ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly are

THE HYMN OF KASSIANI THE NUN

O Lord, the woman who had fallen into many sins perceives Your Divinity.
She fulfills the duty of a myrrh-bearer and brings myrrh to You before Your burial.
Lamenting, she says: "Woe to me!
My nights are an insane passion of lust, gloomy and moonless, filled with sinful desires.
Accept the flow of my tears, You who draw from the clouds the waters of the sea;
and incline to the groanings, the groanings of my heart,
You who bowed down the heavens by Your ineffable self-emptying.
I shall kiss Your pure feet and wipe them again with the hair of my head,
those feet whose sound Eve heard at dusk in Paradise and hid herself for fear.
Who can search out the multitude of my sins and the depth of Your judgments, O Savior?
O Savior of my soul, do not despise me, Your handmaid, You who have mercy without measure!"

I BEHOLD YOUR BRIDAL CHAMBER

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "I be-hold your Bri-dal cham-ber de-cor-a-ted, O my Sav-ior, and I have no wed-ding gar-ment so that I may en-ter it. Make shine the robe of my soul, O Gi-ver of Light and save me." The score ends with a double bar line.

I be - hold your Bri - dal cham - ber
de - cor - a - ted, O my Sav - ior, and I have no
wed - ding gar - ment so that I may
en - ter it. Make shine the robe
of my soul, O Gi - ver of Light and
save me.

THE PRAYER OF ST EPHREM

Leader: O Lord, Master of my life, grant that I may not be infected with the spirit of slothfulness and inquisitiveness, with the spirit of ambition and vain speech. *(Prostration)* Grant instead to me Your servant, the spirit of purity and humility, the spirit of patience and neighborly love. *(Prostration)* O Lord and King, bestow upon me the grace of being aware of my sins and of not thinking evil of those of my brethren. *(Prostration)*

R. For You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

R. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord have mercy! *(3 times)*

Leader:

May Christ, our True God, who willing came to the Passion for our salvation, have mercy on us and save us, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother, of His glorious Apostles who are worthy of all praise, through the intercession of the holy and just ancestors of Christ God, Joachim and Ann, and through the intercession of the honorable and bodiless Powers of Heaven, and through the intercession of the glorious prophet and forerunner, John the Baptist, and through the power of the glorious and life-giving Cross, and through the intercession of the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs, and of our God-bearing Fathers, and of all the saints, for He is good and He loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us!

R. Amen.